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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY

German Democratic Republic

DATE OF INFORMATION May 1950

SUBJECT

Economic - Chemical industry

DATE DIST. 4 Dec 1950

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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REPORT ON THE ERKNER CHEMICAL FACTORY, SOVIET ZONE GERMANY

I. PRODUCTION PROCESS

The basic material used in the Erkner Chemical Factory, which is organizationally a part of the "Carbon Products" Federation of People-Owned Enterprises, is the tar of all types which is obtained as a by-product of the gasworks in the Soviet Zone of Occupation. The first stage of processing yields the following principal products: benzene, crude benzene, and carbolic oils. These are further processed in the Benzene Department and the Carbolic Department. The prescribed daily output (minimum) is 96,000 liters of benzene and 72,000 liters of carbolic oil.

A. Benzene Department

In the benzene scrubbing installation purified benzene of Grades I, V, and IV is obtained, by adding sulfuric acid to the crude benzene. These are then pumped to the so-called "old" and "new" distillation units for further processing. The old distillation unit has five distillation installations (stills), with a capacity of 20,000 liters each. The new distillation unit has three stills, each with a capacity of 100,000 liters. The following products are obtained, depending on temperature and the chemicals added (listed in order of production value):

1. First-run benzene for manufacture of explosives.
2. Unrefined toluol, which is further processed in the Pyridine Department to purified or pure toluol and is used for the manufacture of explosives and saccharin. One of the chief consumers is the Explosives Factory in Schoenebeck on the Elbe. Deliveries to this factory are made regularly.
3. Ninety percent benzene, pure benzene, and heavy benzene, which are used exclusively as fuel for the Soviet troops. Shipments are made daily by tank car or tank truck.
4. The sulfuric acid used in the benzene scrubbing unit, which is drawn off after distillation, is used as follows, depending on the degree of saturation:

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a. With a resin saturation of less than 10 percent, it is used as pyridine acid, from which the pure pyridine for pharmaceuticals, e.g., sleeping tablets, is made. The price at the plant is 45 Deutsche marks per kilogram.

b. With a saturation of over 10 percent, the sulfuric acid is treated with cresol. The product is acid resin, which is used, among other things, as an additive for liquid tars, asphalts, etc. Pure naphthalene is also obtained as an intermediate product.

5. Cumaron resin, used in the production of buna, the manufacture of film, and the optical industry.

6. Fertilizer salts.

B. Carbolic Department

Xylol and phenol are by-products of the distillation of carbolic oil. Xylol is used in the manufacture of dyes, phenol in the production of medical products. [No further information is given.]

II. MANPOWER

On a standard shift, the workers work from 0600 to 1630 hours. The machinery and plant supervision services work in three shifts: 0600-1400, 1400-2200, and 2200-0600 hours. In the Benzene Department the shift consists of one man in the benzene scrubbing unit, one man in the new distillation unit, one man in the old distillation unit, one man in the Pyridine Department, one man to do preliminary work, and one section foreman.

There is no special production at night, but only supervisory service.

Since 1 January 1950 there have no longer been Soviet supervisory officers in the plant.

The chief personnel of the plant are as follows:

Plant Management

1st Director: Dr Krummacher

2d Director: Boehm

1st Technical Director: Roder

2d Technical Director: Wagner

Administration

Head of Personnel Office: Ernst Neumann

Head of Payroll Office: Knittel (also shop steward)

Head of Plant Security Office: Wilde

Head of Shipping Office: Mrs Krummacher

Head of Plant Trade Union Management: Lerche (secretary, Miss Rinkus)

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Activities in Plant Trade Union Management: Engel and Knittel

Activities in Free German Trade Union: Mueller

Office workers with special assignments (supervision, etc.): Goebelt, Roede, Brandt, Barkowski, Mueller, Roewe, Gleffe, Bornemann, Lindner

Technical Office

Laboratory Chief: Hyde

1st Laboratory Assistant: Schneider

Chief of Estimates: Wolnack

Head of Planning: Garlipp

Deputy: Kleinert

Head of Work Works Unit: Altschaffel

Director, Apprentices Unit: Trillack

Benzene Department

Director: Engr Priebus

1st Foreman, Benzene Department: Knueppel

1st Foreman, Tar Distillation Department: Roder

2d Foreman, Tar Distillation Department: Schulz

Carbolic Department

Director: Dr Guenther

Director, Boiler House Department: Engr Heimann

Director, Repair Department: Engr Scheidecker

1st Foreman, Machine Shop: Hahn

2d Foreman, Machine Shop: Bugge

1st Foreman, Boiler House: Reichwagen

Foreman, Repair Department: Loh

Chief Electrician: Eckert

Transportation Chief: Goersdorf

Yard Master: Zawadzki

Foreman in Charge of Tank Cars: Ostwald

At present, the other white-collar workers in the administrative and technical offices number about 80. The total number of employees (laborers and office workers) is about 480 to 530.

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